

HB0063  
Ways and Means Committee  
February 4, 2026  
Position: Oppose

Esteemed Chair Wilkins, Vice Chair Feldman, and Members of the Ways and Means Committee, my name is Joanna Heintzelman Casto and I am a constituent of Maryland District 13. I am a parent of two graduates of Howard County Public Schools and witness to the growing up of multiple teenagers and adults who are transgender and non-binary. **I oppose HB0063, Interscholastic and Intramural Junior Varsity and Varsity Teams and Locker Rooms – Designation Based on Sex.** I do not believe its claim to provide "fairness."

Organized sports provide many benefits for our youth: teamwork, resilience, leadership, success and growth from failure. This bill seeks to deny those benefits for children who do not conform to their limited definitions. It denies equity and experiences we encourage all children to have to our transgender neighbors. By confining gender to "gender assigned at birth," this bill erases the very existence of intersex and nonbinary children and denies that trans girls and boys are just that: girls and boys.

This bill seeks to "protect girls." From what? From whom? The suggestion that girls need protection in this regard while boys don't speaks volumes. The writers are willing to subject cisgender girls who do not conform to their binary to abuse from their peers who don't believe that they are cis. This puts all girls--trans and cis--in danger, by heightening scrutiny around their gender presentation. Such a bill would open the door for cis girls being subjected to scrutiny based on else's opinion of what "girls" look like.

This bill, like many others we are seeing nation and worldwide, is part of the larger conservative agenda to disappear trans people from society, by continuing to make it difficult for them to participate in society fully as who they are. Trans people are not new. Trans people have been moving with and around us forever. It begins with denying trans children the right to play with their friends, and expands into removing rights to health care, rights to work, rights to hold identification that affirms who they are for trans adults.

As a sanctuary state, Maryland has a responsibility to protect its citizens from discriminatory bills like this.

For these reasons, I oppose this bill, and I respectfully urge this committee to return an unfavorable report on HB0063.